

# Morphological and Cultural Characterization of *Phytophthora colocasiae* Isolates Collected from Taro Growing Areas of Southern Ethiopia

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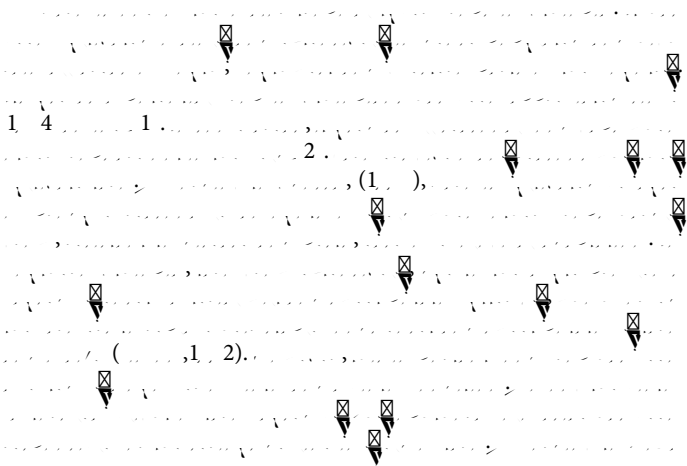
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## Abstract

Leaf blight of taro caused by *Phytophthora colocasiae* has been responsible for the serious decline in yield of taro. In Ethiopia it has contributed to the decline in taro production but still farmers have not recognized taro leaf blight as a disease associating its symptom with a maturity stage of the crop and impact of heavy rain fall. Survey was carried out in taro growing areas of Southern Ethiopia. A total of 10 isolates (A, B, C, D, E, G, H, J, K, L, M, N and O) were identified. Sporangia type for isolate A, B, D, E, G, I, L and M were Semi papillate whereas isolate C, F, H, J, K, N and O have papillate. Sporangia shape for isolate A, G, H, J, L, M and N were lemon, isolate B, C, F and O were Globose where as isolate D, E, I and K have Ovoid shaped sporangia. The color of colony is ranging from white to dull white, cottony to moderately cottony in texture and abundance of mycelium is profuse to slightly sparse growth on PDA. The pathogenicity test confirmed that all isolates were pathogenic to taro. The pathogenicity test was carried out on taro plants under glasshouse conditions. The results showed that all isolates were pathogenic to taro. The pathogenicity test was carried out on taro plants under glasshouse conditions. The results showed that all isolates were pathogenic to taro. The pathogenicity test was carried out on taro plants under glasshouse conditions. The results showed that all isolates were pathogenic to taro.

## Keywords:

## Introduction

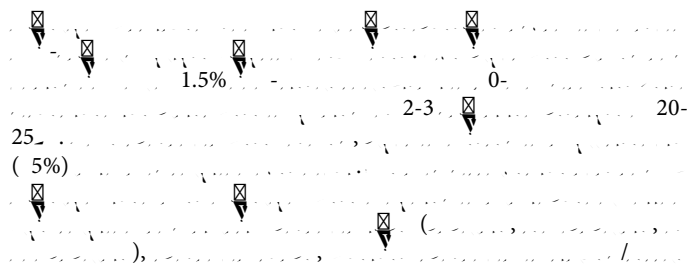


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**Received:** 2023-01-10 **Editor assigned:** 2023-01-15 **Reviewed:** 2023-01-20 **Revised:** 2023-01-25 **Published:** 2023-01-30

**Citation:** Tomas Z, Shikur E, Said A (2023) Morphological and Cultural Characterization of *Phytophthora colocasiae* Isolates Collected from Taro Growing Areas of Southern Ethiopia. Adv Crop Sci Tech 11: 1-10.

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**Citation:** Tomas Z, Shikur E, Said A (2023) Morphological and Cultural Characterization of *Phytophthora colocasiae* Isolates Collected from Taro Growing Areas of Southern Ethiopia. Adv Crop Sci Tech 11: 607.

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